

From the Rabbi

Not Just for Service Leaders

Beginning on Tuesday, February 4, I will be teaching the first of two classes on synagogue skills: "How to Lead Services" and "How to Prepare a Derash." While these classes are intended especially for people who are interested in becoming service leaders, they are open to all. Even if you cannot imagine yourself ever getting up on the *bimah* but just want to have a better understanding of why we do what we do at our services, you are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you are interested in contributing to Sha'ar Zahav's new Friday night prayerbook project (coming soon to a shul near you), this class will be especially helpful.

One of the many qualities which make our synagogue special is our commitment to "*bimah* equality." Unlike most synagogues, the presence of members of the synagogue as service leaders, cantors, Torah chanters, and sermonizers is not a special event but a regular feature of our worship. These customs reflect two principles which energize our religious life – Jewish empowerment and shared responsibility. While historically the rabbi has always been a teacher in the community, Judaism has never taught that only the rabbi can lead services, read Torah, or speak from the pulpit. CSZ, founded by people who had been turned away from other synagogues, emphasizes that all of Judaism – including ritual leadership – is accessible to anyone who wishes to make a commitment to it. Until modern times, the leadership of synagogue services was always shared by members of the community. We are pioneering in bringing back this practice to liberal synagogues; increasing lay involvement in service-leading is a growing priority of the Reform movement as a whole.

"How to Lead a Friday Evening Service" will study the history, themes, and essential elements of Shabbat evening liturgy – exploring contemporary and modern prayerbooks and discussing how to find and select additional readings to enhance the service. We will learn

how to put it all together to create a liturgy that is authentic, rooted in our tradition, and rooted in our community. Participants will have an opportunity to co-lead an upcoming Shabbat evening service.

"How to Lead" will meet for five Tuesdays, beginning on February 4, from 7:45 to 9:30 pm. (Note: this is two weeks later than previously announced.) The class is free to CSZ members; tuition is \$30 for non-members. Please preregister by calling the synagogue office *today* so that we can prepare enough materials.

"How to Prepare a Derash" will explore how to read the weekly Torah portion, using traditional and modern commentaries. Together we will brainstorm ideas for *derashot* (sermons), research and prepare them, and finally present them to each other in class, and, perhaps, at services. The class will begin Tuesday, March 10 (one week later than previously announced). Please call the office to sign up.

Other classes that will be offered: "Introduction to Biblical and Prayerbook Hebrew," taught by Phyllis Mintzer, will teach the essentials of Hebrew. The goal of this course is basic competency in reading, as well as understanding the root meanings of words in Hebrew texts found in weekly religious services. Pre-

Continued on page 9



Purim Update

Mark your calendar and start designing your costume! This year's Purim party, Megillah Madness, will take place on Saturday, March 21, at the Unitarian Center in San Francisco. The evening promises to be a wild success with an all-new and original Purim pageant. We will dance the night away to your favorite tunes, along with some Israeli folk dancing. In addition, there will be hamen-tashen and costume contests, a beauty bazaar, and more! What can you do? We need people to decorate and set up, help with refreshments, bake hamen-tashen (dig out those treasured recipes) and to perform in the pageant. Final details will be forthcoming in the March *Forward*. Child care will be available by reservation only. Call co-coordinators Nathan Robinson, (415) 567-8706, or Carolyn Pines, (510) 532-9661, to get involved, to reserve child care, or to give us any wild and crazy party ideas.

Obscure Jewish Holiday Revealed

Recently discovered archives in the village of Shmegegsk, Belarus, reveal the existence of a holiday, Valenstein's Day, which was celebrated in the month of Adar. In the interest of maintaining our link with tradition, Congregations Sha'ar Zahav is planning to observe the holiday for the first time.

A celebration for single gay men and women will be held on Saturday, February 15, at 8 pm at the synagogue. After a short *havdallah* ceremony, we will hear the story of Reb Valenstein and engage in appropriate festivities. Refreshments will be served.

Please call Phil (537-9152), Ellen (658-8713) or the office to confirm your place at this significant event. There will be a nominal charge (\$3 members/\$5 non-members) for reservations, which must be confirmed by February 12.

With your support, this just might be the first of a series of exciting events for singles. As Reb Valenstein would say, "Don't stay home. Go out! It will be good for you."

Social Action Committee

Warm Clothes, Etc.

Thanks to all of you who brought warm clothes to our collection box. The first load was gratefully received by the Travelers Aid Transbay Outreach Project, which runs a free store in the Transbay Bus Terminal and distributes food, blankets and clothing to homeless people on the streets. Winter has only just started. Donations peak at the end of the year, but need doesn't. Clean out those closets, folks!

Those of you who want to help others without going to meetings, please take note. We will begin assembling bag lunches to give to homeless people on Sunday, March 1. Committee members have volunteered to solicit donations or, failing that, to buy ingredients with synagogue funds. We still need people who want to spend a few hours making sandwiches. We will gather at noon March 1 at 265 Laidley (near 30th Street and Noe) for a work party. Anyone who wants to help, please call Susan (285-4747) for directions.

At least one member of the Social Action Committee will represent CSZ on March 20 through 22 at an event called "Common Ground." The organizers, a Jewish woman and a Catholic woman, describe the event as a weekend retreat for "pro-choice and right-to-life women, a time to honor our humanity, and a good place to disarm." Anyone else interested in representing Jewish lesbians please contact Common Ground, P.O. Box 460398, San Francisco, CA 94146.

Oh, yes, the next Social Action Committee meeting will be from 7 to 9 pm, Tuesday, February 11, at the synagogue.

—Nina Wouk

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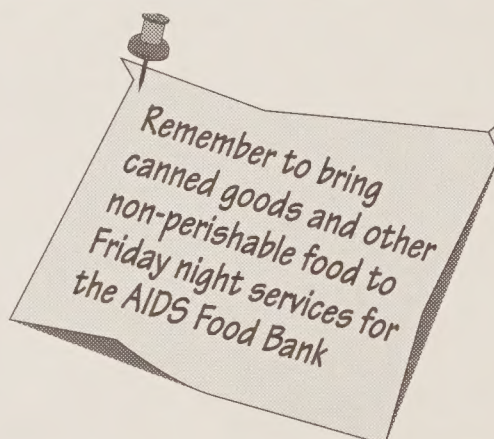
Anniversaries

- 2 Merry Luskin & Meredith Florian
- 10 Robert Nacamulli & Lorraine Locke-Nacamulli
- 12 Misha Cohen & Katherine Woodruff
- 13 Karen Erlichman & Deborah Dixon
- 14 Stacey Shuster & Joan Lefkowitz
- 23 Luana Willis & Yael Silverberg

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



The Social Action Committee, along with the Jewish Family and Children's Services, presented a Shabbat luncheon in the Tenderloin. It was held at the North of Market Senior center on January 17. PHOTO BY MICHAEL BETTINGER



The Jewish Gaily Forward is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$18/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Howard Blechman, Richard Inlander, Ellen Murland, Irene Ogus, Alita Rosenfeld, and Lane Schickler (general editorial and production), Michael Bettinger (photographer), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Howard Goldberg, Alex Ingersoll, Merry Luskin, Sam Thal, Eli Weinstein, Sylvia Weisenberg, Donna Rabinowitz, and Ron Wilmot (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

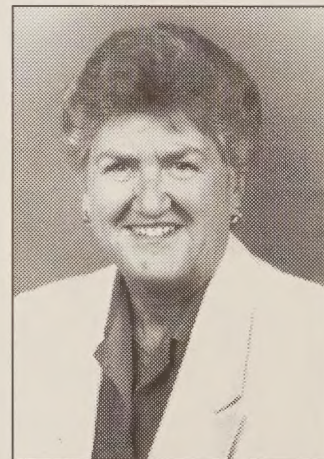
Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

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Women's Chavurah

Havdalah Potluck

Wonderful food and fabulous conversation made last fall's Havdalah potlucks a great success. So we've decided to get together on a regular basis to celebrate Havdalah and discuss activities of the Women's Chavurah. Mark your calendar for the third Saturday night of every other month, beginning in February. We will try to move around the Bay Area and we hope we'll have lots of "crossover" each time.

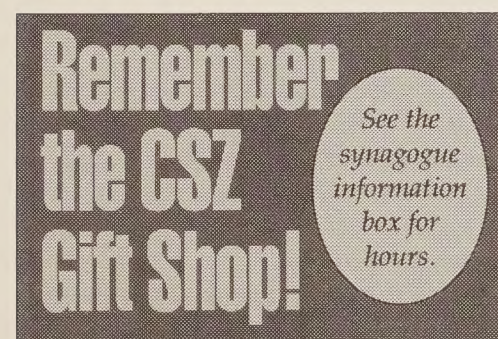
The next potluck is scheduled for Saturday, February 22, at 6 pm, at the home of Sarah M., 2228 California, in Berkeley. From Highway 80, take the University Avenue exit and go east, towards the hills, to California Street, turn right and go south, about two blocks. (Call Sarah at 845-3343 if you need better directions.) Plan to bring a dish to share. Last names beginning with A-H, please bring a dessert, I-P a side dish, and Q-Z a main dish.

Bowling Night

By popular demand (mainly from people who haven't hefted a bowling ball since high school), the Women's Chavurah is hitting the lanes, in what promises to be a wild and crazy night. Put March 14, 7 pm on your calendar. This night of strikes and spares will be held at Japantown Bowl, Post and Webster in San Francisco (three hours free parking in Japantown garage). We need 24 people to hold the lanes, so call Susan Tubessing at (510) 482-3740 now to save your place.

Shabbat Dinner

Plans are in place to hold a women's Shabbat dinner on the fourth Friday of every month at Sha'ar Zahav prior to services. The first such dinner will be held March 27 at 6:30 pm. See the March *Forward* for details.



Children's Religious Service

Commentary

The weekly Torah portion for our January children's service was Vaera, the second portion of the book of Exodus, which tells about Moses' charge from God to lead the Israelites from Egypt and the beginning of the plagues. This commentary on the portion was written by Sonia Douglass, a fifth-grade student in our Kadi-mah religious school, and was read by her at our service. (The next children's service is on February 22 at 10:30 am.)

This story takes place when the Jewish people were slaves. God had picked out a man and his brother. Their names were Moses and Aaron. Their task was to take God's message to free the Israelites. They had a hard time persuading the pharaoh to let the Israelites go. God hardened the pharaoh's heart so God could impress the people of Egypt. First, Aaron threw down his rod and turned it into a snake. Second, Aaron turned all the water into blood. Third, Aaron brought a ton of frogs. Fourth, Aaron brought lice. Fifth, Aaron brought cattle disease to only the Egyptians, but not to the animals of the Israelites. After that came hail.

Personally, I think that God was a little vain about when he said that he wanted to harden the pharaoh's heart because he wanted to show the Egyptians and the Israelites how powerful he was. Second of all, I also think that God shouldn't have punished every Egyptian for the pharaoh's stubbornness. Some of the Egyptians may have been willing to let the Israelites go.

I remember the time when my class was doing art and two boys were insulting every girl in the class until they got too carried away, so the teacher told us that we couldn't do art any more. Instead, we had to study history. So, the whole class got punished for what the two boys did. I felt that it was not fair for me and the rest of the class to get punished. I felt like I didn't need to be punished.



Sonia Douglass

Forceful Women

A conference, Women as a Force for Social Change, will take place on March 1, from 9 am to 5 pm, at Golden Gate University. Melanie Kaye-Kantrowitz and Alice Shalvi, keynote speakers, along with dozens of exciting workshops, promise to make this a great event. General registration is \$45, including a box lunch, \$35 without; and \$25/15 for students and/or low-income seniors. Conference registration deadline is February 17. For more information call Esther Nichol (Federation 777-0411) or Evan Mendelson (Hillel Council 334-4440).

Office Notes

Well, it's finally finished! The synagogue office has been remodeled and is now full of storage space and comfortable workstations for Mark and Jim, and for the rabbi. Thanks go to Ellen Gierson, Building Committee chair, for coordinating the effort and a "job well done" to Chris Grey of Christopher Grey Construction for great work by a caring contractor. Special thanks also go to Keith Fenton, may his memory be blessed, for his generous donation enabling us to remodel. And very soon, thanks to an anonymous gift, we will charge into the 21st century with a fax machine. Our next issue will contain the fax number.

Oneg Sponsors

During January, the following generous people sponsored onegs:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3 | Jazz Duberman,
commemorating the yahrzeit of
her mother, Alice Duberman |
| 10 | Mark Pressler, commemorating
the yahrzeit of his lover,
Richard Henderson |
| 17 | Charles Norton |
| 24 | Betty Kalis, in memory of
Phillip and Esther Kalis |
| 31 | Lane Schickler, honoring all
those who volunteered for
Open Hand during Christmas |

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

We encourage donations to the General Fund in particular, since such donations can be used for any synagogue purpose.

Ed Leven

Rachael Wahba, in memory of her mother, Katie Wahba

Sophie Hyman, in memory of Frank Hyman

Ron Wilmot, in memory of Frank Hyman

Ami Zusman, in memory of Benjamin Hertzl Saperstein

Joshua Notowitz

Laura Knight, in memory of Frank Hyman

Marc Lipschutz, in honor of Allan Gold

Charles Norton

Margaret Rossoff

Paul Cohen, in memory of Willie Olsen, Katie Wahba, and Thelma Schwartz

Valery and Ernest Kiksulis

Randy Ellen Michalson

Rob and Mitzie Forsland, in memory of Frank Hyman

Henry Carrey, in memory of Abraham Carrey

Meredith Florian, in honor of Merry Luskin and their one-year anniversary

Robert Friedland

Carol Cohen, in memory of her father, Jacob Cohen

Steve Elman and Tom Holt, in memory of David Gass

Barry Klezmer, in honor of Martin and Jill Klezmer on the birth of Zachery Robert Klezmer

Rabbi and Mrs. Bernie Robinson

Diana and Carol Merry-Shapiro

AIDS Fund

Hal Podgur, in memory of Matthew Piwko

C. Greenbaum, in honor of CSZ's work for people with AIDS

Paul Glackman

Building Fund

Keith Fenton

Endowment Fund

Steve Polsky

Kaiser Brunch Fund

Allan Berenstein

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Margaret Rossoff

Susan Sobel-Feldman, in honor of our rabbi, Yoel H. Kahn

Ron Wilmot, in memory of Frank Hyman

Annie Larson, in memory of Elvera Maimome Cleaves

Lucia Chaudron and Karen Stern, in honor of Tiela Chalmers and Nancy Koch's wedding

Carol Heller, in memory of Alice Florsheim Heller

Frank Yellin

Sanctuary Bond Fund

Ami Zusman, in support of Central American refugees

Social Action Fund

Ami Zusman

Super Sunday

Like everyone else, Jewish families have been hit hard by the current recession. That's why it's more important than ever that those who can, respond generously when a Super Sunday volunteer calls you on February 9.

Super Sunday is the day that the Jewish Community Federation reaches out to the local community for support for the annual campaign. The funds that are raised provide help for those in need here in the Bay Area through our Jewish social service agencies. They also assist Soviet and Ethiopian Jews in making new lives in Israel, and aiding Jews in other countries in which their existence is threatened.

If you won't be home on Super Sunday, you can phone in your pledge by calling (415) 777-0411. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

5	Ami Zusman
7	Ida Joan Kuluk
9	Mark Freeman
10	Daniel Jeremy Bonett
10	Audrey Adelson
11	Simone Gelfand
11	Robert Stern
12	Joan Lefkowitz
13	Howard Blechman
14	Susan Douglass
14	Ron Wolberg
14	Irene Ogus
14	Susan Unger
15	Russell Discher
17	Barry D. Siegel
17	Yael Silverberg-Willis
22	Gail Friedlander
22	Susan Tubbesing
23	Hal Heller
24	Joel Shapiro
25	Alex Ingersoll
26	Laura Susan Stuchinsky
27	Liela Raim
28	Steven Gaynes

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Naches

To Linda and Susan Fraimow-Wong on the legal adoption of Leah Fraimow-Wong by Linda.

To Milton Estes, who was awarded the 1992 Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award by the Marin County Human Rights Commission.

To Margaret Rossoff, who legally adopted her son, Max, in December.

To Eric Rofes, who has been selected as a recipient of the Koret Israel Prize. He will receive a grant to travel to Israel and pursue the activity of his choice.

Condolences

To Jonathan Schwartz on the death of his mother Thelma Schwartz.

To Jerry Hipps on the death of his grandmother Esther Nielson and his great aunt Evelyn Wiseman.

To Sanford Friedman on the death of his friend Louis Nichols.

To Rachael Wahba and Judy Duglacz on the death of Rachael's mother Katie.

To Lolma Olsen on the death of her mother Willie Olsen.

To Milton Estes on the death of his mother Minnette.

AIDS in Israel

When one thinks of places most affected by AIDS, San Francisco, Brazil, Zaire, or Thailand usually come to mind. Yet Israel, generally associated with the Israel-Arab Conflict, is also confronting the AIDS pandemic. As of June 1991 (according to the Ministry of Health) there were 180 reported cases of AIDS and ARC and 616 reported HIV-positive cases. Of those cases, 107 people have already died. It is estimated that from 2,000 to 5,000 additional people carry the HIV virus without being aware of it. For a country of 4.4 million people, the consequences of the lack of a national campaign to reduce the spread of HIV could be devastating.

How does a country such as Israel, already confronting so many problems, respond to AIDS? What does the average Israeli think about and know about AIDS? How is AIDS affecting the Ethiopian and Russian communities in particular? Is AIDS still seen as primarily a disease of gay men? Who are the majority of people with AIDS in Israel? What type of responsibility is the government taking for preventing the spread of AIDS?

These and other questions will be addressed in a talk and video presentation given by Robert Tufel, M.S.W. and M.P.H., and Lisa Ginsburg and Michael Goralsky. Robert Tufel has just returned from a year of working with the Israel AIDS Task Force. The Israel AIDS Task Force, a non-profit agency founded in 1985, has been the only agency involved in education, prevention and PWA advocacy. This all-volunteer group, receiving no government support, faces an overwhelming task. Robert will describe his experiences with the Task Force and the general situation of AIDS.

Lisa Ginsburg and Michael Goralsky, two independent video makers, will screen the video, *Everyone Has a Name*, which was made when they were in Israel in December 1990, accompanying the Israel Names Project Tour. The video contains interviews with social and public health workers, as well as reactions of the average Israeli to AIDS.

The talk and presentation will take place on Friday, February 28, following CSZ services.

Israel Education Day At Stanford

Israel Education Day will be held at Stanford University at Cubberly Auditorium and at the Hoover Institution. The event, slated for Sunday, February 23, begins with registration at 12 pm, followed by a planned diplomats' round-table discussion on the Middle East peace talks and then a series of workshops. The day ends at 5 pm with a reception.

Charles Hill, a senior research fellow at the Hoover Institute and a Stanford University diplomat-in-residence, and Israeli Consul General Harry Kney-Tal, will highlight the event as two of the distinguished panelists.

Following the round-table discussion, a variety of workshops will be presented covering a wide range of topics concerning Israel and the peace process. The purpose of Israel Education Day is to offer an opportunity to enhance the knowledge and understanding of Israel and the Middle East for students, faculty and members of the general community.

Wrapping up the day will be a reception. There will be a suggested donation of \$10 for general community and \$5 for students and seniors. For more information call Jeff Santis at (415) 493-5413.

Second Generation Group

A group of gay male children of Holocaust survivors/refugees has formed in San Francisco. As far as we know, this is the first gay male group of its kind. The format of the group is still being discussed, but for now, the group is calling itself a "support/social group." Participants are exploring common issues in a warm, supportive environment. Those interested are invited to call Neil at (415) 824-5545 for more information.

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January Va'ad Report

Rabbi Kahn began our meeting with a D'var Torah. He remarked that the unhappy circumstances surrounding the recent resignation of Rabbi Kirschner from Temple Emanuel compels us to consider questions of boundaries and of our own personal limitations. Though the world often urges us to blur distinctions between people – urges us to be “one” – Judaism “is all about boundaries.” Jewish tradition (and this incident in particular) should inspire in us a new commitment to be aware of appropriate distinctions, and of our own limits. We must continue to confront each other when we confuse our roles and responsibilities. In this instance, the Jewish community as a whole needs to find ways to acknowledge our connection to this incident and to perform *t'shuvah*, so that healing can begin.

As you may recall, in November the Va'ad decided to pay off our remaining mortgage on the synagogue building, in light of our current financial health and the high interest rate of the mortgage. This month, Allan Gold mentioned that some members objected to this decision on three fronts:

- 1) Process – Should past presidents have been involved in the decision?
- 2) Content – Is paying off the mortgage financially wise?
- 3) By-laws – Can this decision be made without a congregational vote?

Don Albert and other members of the Past Presidents' Council and the Finance Committee clarified these issues, discussing such matters as: how much money we should hold in reserve, whether it is wiser to refinance, and whether we should put off this decision until we have time to decide on spending priorities for the upcoming year. Most members of the Finance Committee, including our treasurer, Brett Trueman, agreed that paying off the mortgage would save the congregation well over \$2,000 a year, and that this action would not prevent, but would rather *facilitate*, the financing of other projects. The Va'ad decided to retain its November decision to pay off the mortgage. The Bylaws Committee (Ed Pollack and Richard Inlander) will investigate our by-laws regarding this decision, to see if congregational approval is required. If they are unable to agree, the question will be referred to the Past Presidents' Council.

Leading off the committee reports, Membership Chair Judy Schwartz presented three individuals and four families for membership to the congregation, and they were accepted.

The Bikkur Cholim Committee expressed concern that though our congregation's membership has grown enormously in the past several years, the number of members who volunteer their time to the synagogue has not. This puts a greater and greater burden on those members who do volunteer. The committee believes that the tacit understanding that belonging to Sha'ar Zahav involves pitching in should be made more explicit, and therefore suggested that the Va'ad request, as a general guideline, that each member volunteer 10 hours per year to the congregation. While most Va'ad members articulated their desire to involve more congregants in congregational projects, many also expressed displeasure with even the appearance of *mandating* volunteerism. Allan asked that Volunteer Coordinator Robin Leonard work with the President's



Advisory Group to find ways to attract more volunteers, without suggesting that volunteering is a condition of membership.

The Va'ad next turned to two issues involving the *Jewish Gaily Forward*. First, Howard Blechman, who has chaired our Newsletter Committee for the last few years, was applauded by Allan and the Va'ad, who expressed their deep appreciation to Howard for his years of dedication. Second, the Va'ad discussed the possibility accepting letters to the editor for publication in the newsletter. Some members of the Va'ad felt that the exchange of opinions which might result from publishing letters to the editor would be invigorating to our congregation, while others felt that it would cause unneeded strife. There was concern about the anger that might be incurred by publishing some letters and not others. Some suggested inviting letter

writers to write articles instead. The Va'ad reached a consensus that the *Forward* should begin accepting written responses of some sort, and set up a subcommittee of Rabbi Kahn, Claudia Bernard, Ida Kuluk, and Howard Blechman to formulate a new editorial policy.

Ellen Gierson, chair of the Building Committee, reported that work on the renovations of the offices has been completed. The Va'ad gave Ellen a well-deserved ovation for all of the time and effort she has put into this project, and especially wanted to thank Susan Stahl, who along with Ellen, painted both offices.

Last year, the congregation adopted a new dues policy, with an eye to applying an overriding principle which the Dues Committee calls “SAFE” – Systematic Across-the-Board, Fair and Equitable. Our current policy requires those with a gross annual income (GAI) of \$90,000 or more to pay annual membership dues of \$1,000+, but the “+” is not defined. While members who earn less than \$18,000 are asked to pay 1% of their GAI, those members with a GAI of, say, \$200,000, may pay \$1,000, well less than 1% of their income. In light of this problem, the Dues Committee proposed at our January meeting that we add a new category to our dues schedule, requiring those earning \$90,000 and above to pay dues of 1% of their GAI. After a discussion of both the fairness of this proposal and its practicality, the Va'ad agreed to propose this addition to the dues structure at the next congregational meeting.

In his report, Rabbi Kahn announced that in February we will be showing a videotape of the Names Project in Israel. He also said that our community is experiencing a baby boomlet; he has officiated at several baby namings in recent months.

Allan Gold appointed Paul Cohen, Irene Ogus, Cheryl Bryan, Pam Erwin, and Mike Zimmerman as the Leadership Development Committee to act as the 1992 Elections Committee; the Va'ad approved the appointments. Allan also announced that Carolyn Pines and Gary Sokol have agreed to be High Holiday Coordinators for 1992.

Our meeting was adjourned with the singing of Oseh Shalom, and a closed session followed.

—Kathy Simon

Volunteers of the Month

Lisa Katz and Bill Ashley-Dobbin

This month we salute two active participants in the congregation.

Lisa first came to services when we were meeting in the basement of Glide Memorial Church. She was still an undergraduate student at UC-Davis and had learned about Sha'ar Zahav from friends.

Originally from Chicago, she grew up in an actively observant Reform home. Lisa recalls with great fondness family Shabbat dinners and with a little less fondness, Hebrew school classes, although she attended through confirmation. Her adult commitment to Judaism and Israel was strengthened by an extended visit to Israel in her late teens. She remembers coming home and becoming what her parents described as "obsessively observant."

After graduating, she worked in Sacramento for a variety of offices established by Governor Brown to protect the rights of women and sexual minorities. Introduced by friends to a number of Jewish lesbians, she joined them in planning a seder, which led to a weekly Torah study group (with a little process work included). On occasional visits to the City, she came to services to meet people and participate in our "spiritual community."

Enrolling at Hastings Law School in 1985 also led to joining CSZ. She was then formally able to begin "integrating her identities as a Jew and lesbian." Becoming increasingly active after graduation in the Social Action Committee, she served as co-chair and is proud of the work done for abortion clinic defense, the homeless, sanctuary awareness, and the various ballot initiatives.

Currently serving on the Va'ad, Lisa is also one of the founding members of the Dues Committee. She has found this work very different from her social activism, "as its purpose is to ensure the financial stability of the congregation." She knows she has grown in her perspectives and understanding and along the way has increased her volunteer time

to 15–20 hours per month. (All this and a new job in the public defender's office!)

Bill Ashley-Dobbin, however, has traveled a different road to his active volunteering at CSZ. Growing up in El Paso, Bill moved to San Antonio in 1969 to get his bachelor's degree in English, and also a wife and two children. He worked as an early childhood teacher, specializing in the needs of children with disabilities.



Bill Ashley-Dobbin

Bill became active in Gay Fathers after his move to San Francisco in 1981. As a graduate of the 12-step program, he "wanted to find a way to express his thanks to God for his new life." He chose to first attend a service on Shabbat Shuvah, 1983, and was pleased to see a number of people he knew including Rabbi Ben Marcus, of blessed memory. As he puts it, "I was

hooked immediately. Everything I heard sounded good and all of it seemed to espouse my beliefs." Bill took classes to learn about Judaism: from Rabbi Marcus, Rabbi Greenbaum, and Rabbi Kassorla at the Sephardic synagogue where he went for Shabbat morning services. Converting to Judaism in 1985, he felt the need for more focused education and found it while studying for his bar mitzvah, which he calls the "spiritual high point of my life." Bill has been actively involved with the congregation as the baker of our Shabbat challah, cook of our Shabbat morning cholent, and as an active member of many committees. He served as oneg chair for two years, librarian, and has also been our archivist. Bill is most interested in developing an oral history of our members as part of his archive work. All of these activities are for him, "what he does for my San Francisco family." He is also very proud of his children, his son graduating from Marine boot camp, and his daughter, planning on attending college.

—Paul Cohen



Lisa Katz

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Jewish Political Shenanigans

The Association of Reform Zionists of America has decided to put forward a candidate for chair of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency executive. The chair will be elected by the World Zionist Congress, which will be held in Israel in June. This is the first time that a Reform Jew will compete for the WZO and Jewish Agency chair. In fact, since Israel's founding, no candidate has ever competed for these positions who did not represent either the Labor Party or Likud.

The decision to put forward a Reform candidate was made following a joint effort by the Labor Zionist Movement and Hadassah to block elections to the Congress in the United States. The Reform candidate will head an independent, centrist block, committed to democracy, religious pluralism, political moderation, and serious reform of the WZO and the Jewish Agency. As of this writing, ARZA is negotiating with Israel's political parties for support.

The individual who chairs the WZO and the Jewish Agency holds a position of great power and influence in Jewish life. This year, the Jewish Agency will spend \$632 million on the absorption of Soviet immigrants and on Jewish education around the world; these funds are collected by the United Jewish Appeal in the United States.

Delegates to the World Zionist Congress are supposed to be selected by general election in the United States and in other countries around the world. All members of Zionist organizations such as ARZA are entitled to vote. In the 1987 election, nearly a quarter of a million people voted in the United States alone — making the WZO the most democratic organization in the Jewish world.

Why then are elections not being held in the United States? The reason is that the American Zionist Federation has bowed to pressure from Hadassah and the Labor Zionist Movement, which feel that their interests would be better served by a political deal, than by an open election.

Hadassah lost many seats in the last election, and fears losing more in the next. It has demanded that Labor oppose elections and has threatened to stay away from the Congress if elections are held. Labor, in turn, needs Hadassah's votes at the Congress if it is to retain control of the Jewish Agency executive. Therefore, a political deal was struck: Hadassah would support the Labor candidate for chair of the executive, and Labor would support Hadassah's demands that no elections be held.

As an alternative to elections, Hadassah and Labor have supported, and the American Zionist Federation has accepted, an "electoral college" system which purports to be democratic but, in actuality, is intended to maintain the status quo established at the last Congress. (The one exception: extra seats are apparently to be awarded to the Orthodox Zionist organizations, as part of a deal to get their approval for the "electoral college." The result: Orthodox representation increases, Reform representation decreases.) The number of electors will be tiny; instead of the hundreds of thousands of voters choosing the Congress delegates, the choice will be made instead by 600 to 700 electors. Each Zionist organization will select a percentage of the electors, based on its showing in the last Congress election in 1987. It is virtually certain that these electors will vote for

the organization that selected them, thereby eliminating any possibility of a real election.

ARZA has decided that the only proper response to these political shenanigans is to put forward its own candidate for the chair of the WZO, together with a platform calling for far-reaching reform of the WZO and the Jewish Agency. But ARZA's decision carries certain risks for the Reform Movement.

If the Reform candidate is not elected, it is possible that the Reform Movement could lose the positions that it now holds in the WZO, and that attempts might be made to curtail funding that it receives. On the other hand, many Israelis on both the left and the right of the political spectrum, and especially several of the smaller liberal parties, have applauded ARZA's efforts to reform the WZO.

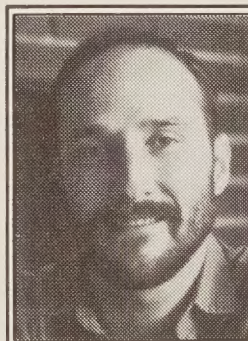
ARZA now hopes that delegates to the Congress from all Zionist groups will put aside business as usual, and will seize the opportunity that the Reform candidate offers to reshape the WZO. Whatever the outcome, ARZA believes that its course is the right one — since its founding, ARZA has been committed to democracy and reform of the World Zionist Organization and will maintain that commitment.

Your support for ARZA enables the Reform Movement to pursue principles of democracy and pluralism on behalf of worldwide Jewry. If you are not yet a member of ARZA, you can join by sending a tax-deductible check payable to ARZA to the synagogue office (\$20 individual, \$30 couple, \$50 contributing, \$100 sustaining).

—Ron Lezell



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Dinner with Rabbi

Rabbi Yoel Kahn will host a catered Shabbat dinner for CSZ members living with HIV/AIDS on Friday, February 14, at 6 pm. If you are living with HIV or AIDS, or are the partner of a person with HIV, please join us in the library for a special evening of food, company, prayer and song. An informal, supportive discussion will follow dinner and will conclude before services. You may also bring a lover or a friend as a guest. For more information, call Rabbi Kahn at the office; please RSVP to Jim in the office by Wednesday, February 12.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members and friends in January. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Mollie Singer

Judy Heiman and Martha Moon

Nina Elsohn, Lester Lisker
and Anna Lisker

Karen Fierer and
Mischa Aaron Singer-Fierer

Drew Parker

Alan Michaels and Laureen Kim
and Alapai Michaels

David Rosen

We're grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Classifieds

TAX PREPARATION, 10% discount for CSZ members. Will pick up and deliver. Lori Ubell - 731-2081.

FILMMAKER DESPERATELY SEEKING G/L Jewish couples who are monogamous ("married"), committed, longtime companions. Interested in being interviewed on film together? I want to meet you. Call Marc Smolowitz at 252-9363 evenings and weekends, or 548-0556 during the day.

BEAUTIFUL ONE BEDROOM sublet in Upper Mission. Available for month of March 1992. \$650 or best offer. Call Leslie or Maia at 863-0573.

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Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Allan Gold (929-9524)
Administrative Vice President,
Claudia Bernard
Program Vice President,
Tiela Chalmers
Treasurer, Brett Trueman
Recorder, Kathy Simon

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Phil Charney
Daniel Chesir
Steve Elman
Gail Friedlander
Lisa Katz
Ida Kuluk
Nathan Robinson
Judy Schwartz
Susan Unger

Office Personnel:

Manager, Mark Pressler
Secretary, Jim Cotant

Committee Chairs:

Archivist, open
Bequests and Donations, Pam Schaffer
Bikkur Cholim, by committee
Brotherhood, Phil Charney
Building, Ellen Gierson
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Audrey Adelson & Joan Lefkowitz
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dues, David Stein & Ron Lezell

Education, by committee
Finance, Pam Schaffer
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers
Membership, Judy Schwartz
Newsletter, by committee
Oneg, by committee
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert
Personnel, Claudia Bernard
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslatsky
Religious School, Mary Morgan
Ritual, Larry Wexler
Social Action, Susan Foster
Social Program, by committee
Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard
Women's Chavurah, Susan Tubbesing

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-4 pm.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

Library Hours: Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30-8:05 pm

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Eric Keitel, Liaison).

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

From the Rabbi

Continued from page 1
requisite: reading knowledge of aleph-bet and vowels. This class will meet for 10 sessions starting Tuesday, February 4, from 7:15 to 8:30 pm at the synagogue. Tuition will be \$40 for members and \$60 for the public.

"Modern Jewish Philosophies," also taught by Phyllis Mintzer, will be an

exploration of the different approaches of the major movements within modern Judaism to basic philosophical questions, including excerpts from the writing of Heschel, Borowitz, and Mordecai Kaplan. This course is for both Jews and non-Jews who want to enrich their basic knowledge of Judaism. This class begins on February 4 at 8:30 pm.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

(415) 861-6932

FEBRUARY

שָׁבַט - אָדָר א'

1 Saturday 27 Shevat

- 9:30am, Kadimah
- 9:45am, Parent's meeting

2 Sunday 28 Shevat

- 10:45am, Leadership mini-Advance

3 Monday 29 Shevat

4 Tuesday 30 Shevat

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How to Lead a Service
- 8:30pm, Modern Jewish Philosophers

5 Wednesday 1 Adar I

6 Thursday 2 Adar I

- 7:30pm, Children's Education meeting

7 Friday 3 Adar I

- 8:15pm, Shabbat Services, Daniel Chesir and Gary Sokol

8 Saturday 4 Adar I

- 9:30am, Kadimah

9 Sunday 5 Adar I

- Federation Super Sunday

10 Monday 6 Adar I

- 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting

11 Tuesday 7 Adar I

- 7pm, Social Action committee
- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How to Lead a Service
- 8:30pm, Modern Jewish Philosophers

12 Wednesday 8 Adar I

- 7:30pm, Newsletter editing, 1711 Castro

13 Thursday 9 Adar I

14 Friday 10 Adar I

- 6pm, Shabbat dinner for people living with HIV
- 8:15pm, Shabbat Services, Rabbi Kahn and Jon Funk

15 Saturday 11 Adar I

- 9:30am, Kadimah
- 8pm, Reb Valenstein's Day singles event

16 Sunday 12 Adar I

17 Monday 13 Adar I

18 Tuesday 14 Adar I

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:30pm, Newsletter proofing/layout, 1711 Castro
- 7:45pm, How to Lead a Service
- 8:30pm, Modern Jewish Philosophers

19 Wednesday 15 Adar I

20 Thursday 16 Adar I

- 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting

21 Friday 17 Adar I

- 8:15pm, Shabbat Services, Henry Mach and Jody Reiss
- 8:15pm, East Bay Services, Daniel Chesir; 2431 Burlington St., Oakland

22 Saturday 18 Adar I

- 9:30am, Kadimah
- 10:30am, Children's Service
- 6:30pm, Women's Chavurah potluck; 2228 California St., Berkeley

23 Sunday 19 Adar I

- 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch

24 Monday 20 Adar I

25 Tuesday 21 Adar I

- 7:15pm, Prayerbook Hebrew
- 7:45pm, How to Lead a Service
- 8:30pm, Modern Jewish Philosophers

26 Wednesday 22 Adar I

27 Thursday 23 Adar I

- 6:30pm, Ritual Committee meeting

28 Friday 24 Adar I

- 8:15pm, Shabbat Services, Rabbi Kahn and Tiela Chalmers; AIDS in Israel talk by Robert Tufel after services

29 Saturday 25 Adar I

- 10:30am, Shabbat Services, Rabbi Kahn and Sue Douglass

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

Dr. Diane Sabin

CHIROPRACTOR

3892 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 415/826-8300

East Bay Services

February's East Bay services will be held at the home of Shelley Spiro and Gabriele Kassner at 2431 Burlington St. in Oakland, on Friday, February 21 at 8:15 pm. Please call (510) 482-5967 for directions.